

Victims' Compensation Assistance Program Advisory Council

January 26th 2016
Wilmington VCAP Office

- **Welcome**

The group welcomed Kristin Froehlich filling the Mental Health Professional seat. Lakresha Roberts will also be joining the Council as the new member representing the Department of Justice Designee.

- **Minutes Approval**

The October 27th meeting minutes were approved

- **Old Business**

- **Financial Report:** Lisa reported that at 6 months into the fiscal year they have spent 1.5million, for December \$325,000 went out for that month alone. There is an increase in claims. They have seen some decrease in medical bills with the expansion of Medicaid. However, Moving and Relocation continue to be a large part of the payments being made. Restitution is slow to come in and still a challenge but Lisa is working on getting the word out. It was asked if a Satisfaction Survey would be helpful in figuring out gaps or the victim experience. Lisa felt that they do not have the capacity to manage it.
- **Landlord Tennant Letter:** VCAP revised the award letter to state exactly what they are providing and that they cannot act as an intermediary. They are seeing some improvement in the understanding of what they can and cant do with any LL/T issues.
- **Moving and Relocation Questions:** Stephanie and Lisa will reach out to the shelters to start working on a sheet similar to the Death Benefit Handout that can be given to victims who would like to move. The hope is to clarify what is covered and what steps need to be taken. Will work on a draft for the next meeting.
- **Loss of Support:** Very few states have this benefit. In DE it is in the form of \$3000 for non-homicide cases, and up to the max of \$25,000 in homicide cases after the SSI benefit has been determined. For non-homicide cases it is calculated by looking at 3 months salary, SSI, Medicaid and cash payments (support).
 - Questions for VCAPAC: Is \$3000 helpful or arbitrary?
 - What have other states done to calculate what the loss is actually?
 - What about cost of living?
 - Is time a factor? Is LOS affected the same 6 months from the incident compared to immediately after?
 - Is the proof that is required appropriate to the need?

Lisa will gather some information on LOS and we may want to think about suggested changes to streamline the benefit.

- Mental Health Benefit: It was also discussed several months ago that a handout about Mental Health payment/benefits may be helpful. Lisa has been working on a handout to make available to providers.
- New Business
 - Trends in Victims Compensation
 - From VCAP
 - From VCAP Advisory Council
 - From the Advocacy Community
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

2016 Meeting Dates:
March 29th in Wilmington
July 19th in Middletown
Oct. 25th in Wilmington

The mission of the VCAP Advisory Council is to promote the financially sound and consumer-responsive operation of Delaware's statutory victim compensation assistance program through both regulatory and informal guidance.